

These statements come from Fr. Kolvenbach's address in 1989 at Georgetown University on Jesuit Higher Education.

"1. Jesuit Education Is Value-Oriented

It is my belief that awareness exists that there is no aspect of education, not even the so-called hard sciences, which is value neutral. All teaching imparts values, and these values can be such as to promote justice or work, whether partially or entirely, at cross purposes to the mission of the Society."

"Each academic discipline within the realm of the humanities and social sciences, when honest with itself, is well aware that the values transmitted depend on assumptions about the ideal human person which are used as a starting point. It is here especially that the promotion of justice in the name of the Gospel can become tangible and transparent. For it must guide and inspire the jurist and the politician, the sociologist, the artist, the author, the philosopher and the theologian. We are talking about curriculum, about courses, about research---which means that we are talking about faculty, about us and our lay colleagues and our boards of trustees."

6. Our Mission Today

"As time goes on, however, we need to do more --- in the selection of professors, administrative staff and members of board, and especially in ongoing formation for both Jesuits and lay people in order to create an educational community united in mission. All too often we have seen cases where new lay colleagues are welcomed into Jesuit faculties solely on the basis of academic or other professional credentials. Unless there is a prior clarity concerning a statement of the mission of the institution and a prior acceptance and commitment to foster this mission, it seems unrealistic to expect that we can hope for an institution to continue "in the Ignatian tradition." And growth in understanding need to be cultivated through faculty seminars, discussion and the like, as well as through individual conversations and friendships. Clearly, opportunities for closer involvement in sharing in the spirit of and mission of the institution should be offered through colloquiums, retreats and liturgies for those who are open and desirous of them. This not a case of too few Jesuits needing to seduce the laity into acting like Jesuits. That thinking is not worthy of us. Rather, the many views of all members of the higher education community who follow Ignatius with their own perspective must come together to affect the university's life and developing Ignatian tradition."